



National Weather Service Aberdeen, South Dakota



October 2013

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Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

Winter Storm Outlook – Information that is sent out stating that a hazardous winter weather event may develop. This allows people to make preparations well in advance. An outlook is generally issued 3+ days in advance.

Winter Storm/Blizzard Watch – Issued when the risk of a hazardous winter weather event has increased, but the exact location and/or timing is still in question. Typically issued 12 to 48 hours in advance of the winter weather event. The likelihood of the event occurring is 50% or higher. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

Winter Weather Advisory – An advisory is issued when a hazardous winter weather event is already occurring or imminent. Generally speaking, advisory conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences, and could become life-threatening if caution is not exercised. The likelihood of the event occurring has increased to 80% or higher.

Winter Storm/Blizzard Warning – Lives and property will be threatened by the weather event. Hazardous weather is occurring or will be within the next 24 to 36 hour. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately. The likelihood of the event occurring has increased to 80% or higher.



Winter Preparedness

Autumn in the upper Midwest is a time to enjoy the changing colors of the leaves...a time to prepare for the various hunting seasons that are ongoing or just around the corner. Autumn is also a time to take a moment and begin preparing for the upcoming winter. The heat, humidity and thunderstorms of summer are past. Snowstorms, frigid temperatures and bitterly cold wind chills are just around the corner. Taking the time now to prepare for the winter months will be easier and less stressful than trying to deal with any potential problems during the middle of winter.

In the Home:

- Check the windows and doors for drafts. Also check the insulation of the house in the attic. Were there any leaks during the summer rains? Insulation that gets wet doesn't insulate that well.
- Make sure the heating system in the home is running at optimal performance. Are the furnace filters clean? If a wood burning stove or fireplace is in the home, has the chimney been cleaned?
- Is the carbon monoxide detector properly placed and operating correctly?
- Are rain gutters cleaned out to prevent the formation of ice building up?
- In the outside chance you become stranded in your home during a winter storm, are there enough provisions on hand to make it through? Non-perishable food items, dry wood for burning if you have a fireplace or wood stove, and drinking water are a must to have on hand.
- Don't forget on Sunday, November 3rd, we "fall back" time wise. That is also a great time to replace the batteries in any smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and NOAA weather radios.

In the Vehicle:

- Is the battery up to snuff? A battery can lose up to ½ of its starting power during the dead of winter.
- Does the anti-freeze test down to at least 30 below zero? This would also be a good time to check the entire heating system of the car. Do any belts look worn or have cracks in them? Are hoses soft and squishy? Now is the time to repair or replace them.
- Do the tires have ample tread left? If the tires are getting rather thin in the tread department, it might be time to have the tires replaced.
- Is the winter survival kit in the vehicle? Elsewhere in this issue is a sample list of what a winter survival kit should contain.
- Don't let the vehicle fall below a half tank of fuel. This helps to keep condensation from forming in the tank, and helps to keep the fuel line from freezing up. If you have a diesel powered vehicle, is the fuel blended properly to keep from gelling up?

This is just a small sampling. The following website offers additional items, ideas and suggestions to make it safely through the winter season:

<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/WinterStorms.pdf>

Take the time now to check on these details. Doing so now will save you a lot of frustration during winter.

Jefferson Award Winner—Marvin Seyer



Marvin Seyer of Ipswich, South Dakota is presented with the 2013 Thomas Jefferson Award during a ceremony held at the National Weather Service office in Aberdeen, SD. Presenting the award are representatives from the South Dakota congressional delegation along with James Scarlett, Aberdeen MIC. Pictured from left are; Judy Vrchota from U.S. Senator John Thune's office, Marvin Seyer, James Scarlett, and Sharon Stroschein from U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's office. Marvin has been observing for 38 years. Photo by DAPM Tim Kearns.



Holm Award Winner—Leland Treichel

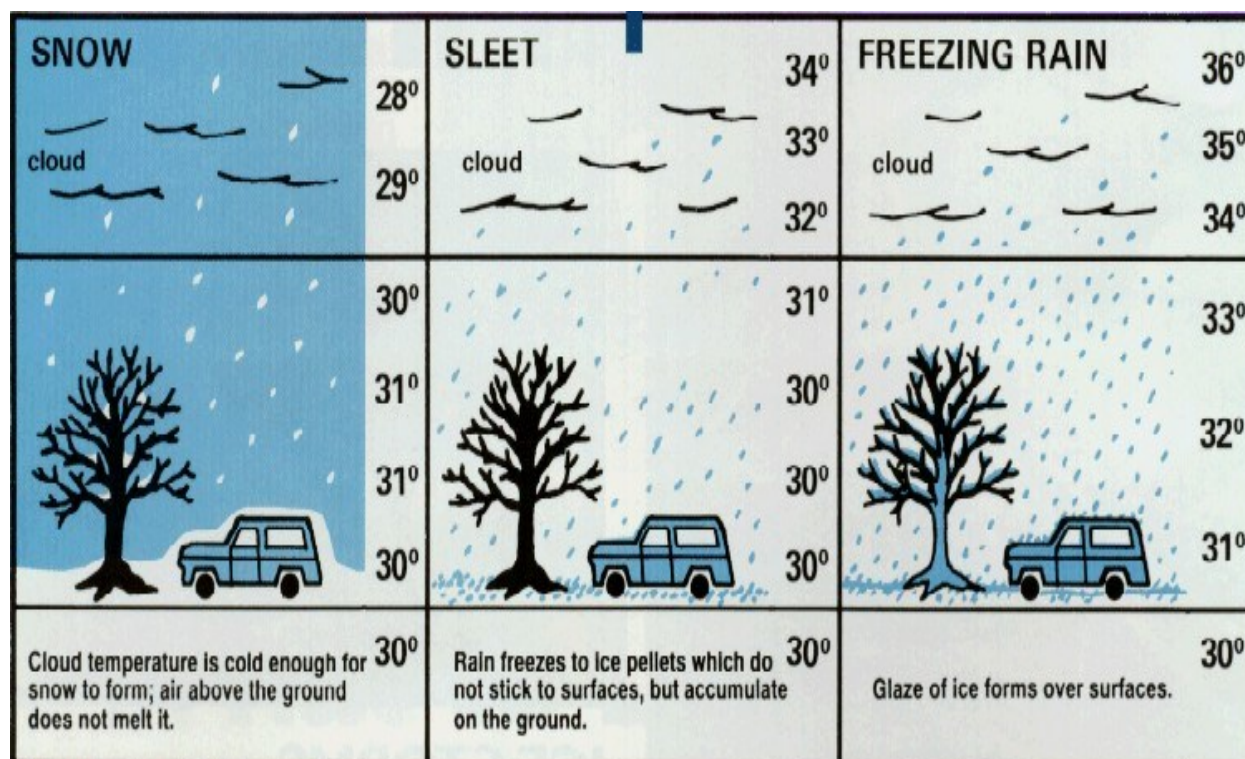


Leland Treichel of Roscoe, South Dakota is presented with the 2013 John Campanius Holm Award during a ceremony held at the National Weather Service office in Aberdeen, SD. Presenting the award are representatives from the South Dakota congressional delegation along with James Scarlett, Aberdeen MIC. Pictured from left are; Tonya Peterson from U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's office, Leland Treichel, James Scarlett, and Aimee Kamp from U.S. Senator John Thune's office. Leland has been observing for 23 years. Photo by DAPM Tim Kearns.

Congratulations

Winter Precipitation Types

Snow	Sleet	Freezing Rain
<p>Cloud temperature is cold enough for snow to form and the air above the ground does not melt it.</p> <p>Flurries: Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation.</p> <p>Showers: Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.</p> <p>Blowing Snow: Wind driven snow that reduces visibility and causes significant drifting. Blowing snow is mostly loose snow on the ground that is picked up by the wind.</p> <p>Blizzard: Winds at least 35 mph with snow and blowing snow reducing visibility to ¼ mile or less.</p>	<p>Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists. A ½ inch of sleet accumulation can be a serious hazard.</p>	<p>Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.</p>



Winter Survival Kit

With the arrival of fall, and having a major blizzard already in the western part of the state, it is time to begin winter weather preparations. One of the most important tasks is to put together a winter survival kit for your vehicle. What follows is a list of items to consider putting into your kit. Don't feel like the items on this list are the only things that should go into your survival kit. This is only a sample. Perhaps your personal experience or situation dictates that other items need to be added. What is important is that you have a kit in your vehicle.

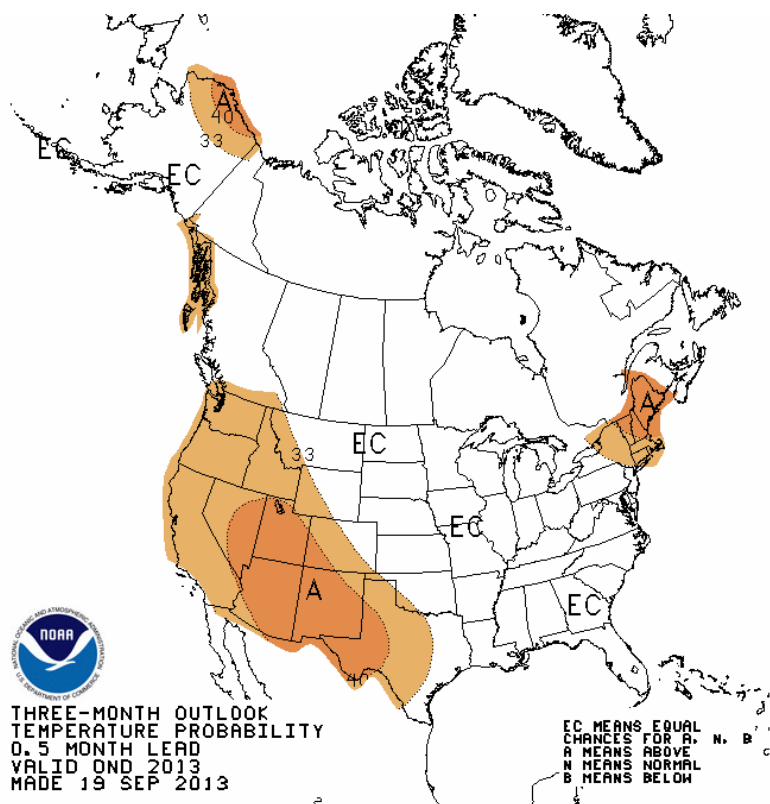
Survival Kit sampler:

- blankets/sleeping bags/old coats...etc.
- high-calorie, non-perishable food...such as nuts, granola bars and trail mixes
- flashlight with extra batteries
- first aid kit
- knife
- extra clothing to keep dry
- a large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water;
- an empty coffee can and candles
- a sack of sand (or cat litter)
- shovel
- windshield scraper and brush
- tool kit
- tow rope
- booster cables
- water container
- compass
- road maps

Also remember if you become stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm, **NEVER** leave the safety of the vehicle. Your odds of survival greatly increase if you remain with the vehicle. Additionally, you can run your vehicle safely for 10 minutes each hour **IF** you can ensure that the tailpipe is free and not plugged up with snow and you roll down your window 1 inch for ventilation. Also travel with a fully charged cell phone, with a backup battery if possible.

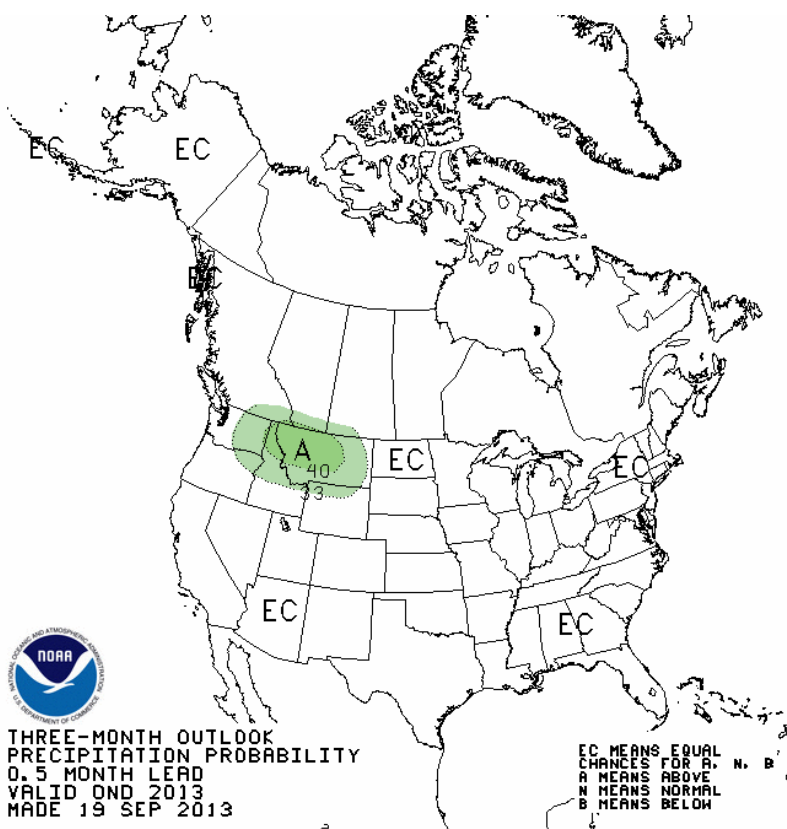


Seasonal Outlook - November through January



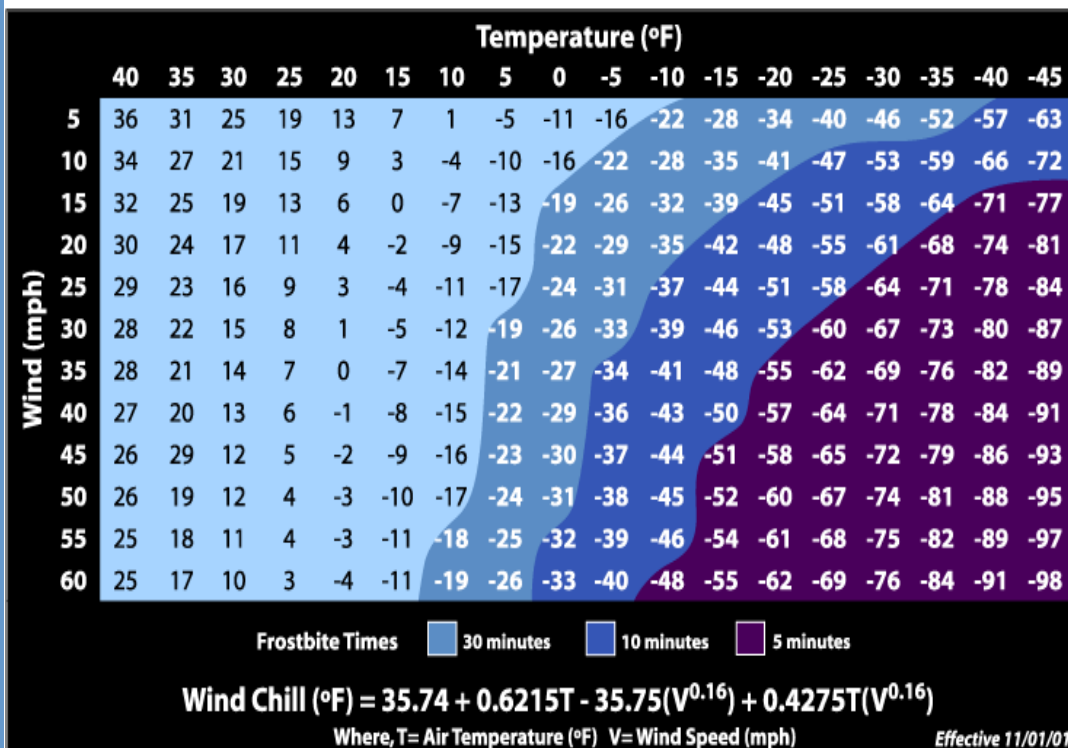
Temperature outlook for the
months of November
through January

Precipitation outlook for
the months of November
through January





Wind Chill Chart



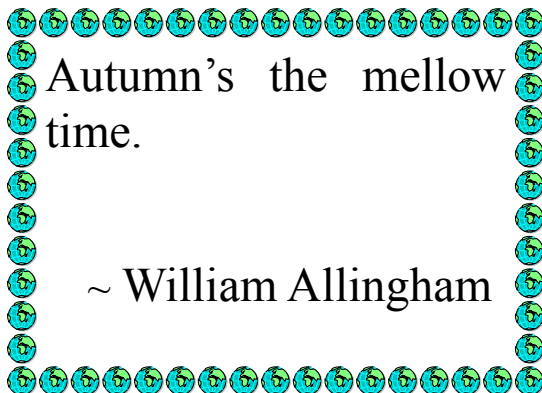
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